



1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4 AUTUMN 2010

www.austin1955.org -- reunion@austin1955.org

AUTUMN, 2010

A MESSAGE FROM OUR REUNION COMMITTEE PRESIDENT, KEN ROSKO:

It was a pleasure to see all of you who attended our BIG 55th Reunion Gathering BLAST at the Chicago Marriott-O'Hare. It was most interesting to see how everyone has become significantly younger! Especially our reunion LADIES!! Seriously, I enjoyed visiting with many of you, but I must apologize for not being able to greet all of you personally. The Committee had a great time planning the weekend, and we look forward to doing it again.

Many of the folks who attended the 55th asked if we were going to get together again in a year or so. Since we all are "maturing" rather well at this time, we certainly don't know if we will be here tomorrow, so we should probably not wait to have a 60th Reunion. What do you think? Your input will be most welcome! Please contact any of us by mail, telephone, or email and let us know what you want us to do, going forward. Once again, it has been a pleasure to serve you. Stay well.

THE PARTY'S OVER (but the memories linger on):

Oh, what a time we had! 57 classmates, including some from as far away as Arizona, California, Florida, Iowa, and Minnesota, and their guests joined us for a lovely reception and delicious Italian Buffet Dinner on Friday night. *Shel Marcus* got us to mingling via an Austin High 1955 Bingo game. During a short program, which included an audience participatory quiz about Chicago landmarks, prizes, including CD's of popular 1950's music, were awarded to the game winners. Winners included *Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli, Genny (Luisi) Schroeder, Harry Kappos, Linda Magad, Donna (Mayfield) Harder, Jeanette (Gromoshak) Lucansky, and Dee Dee Whipple*. It was beginning to look as if prizes were being awarded only to reunion committee members. It wasn't a fix – Honest!

Ken Rosko and *Jim Padar* presented *Lou Weber*, our beloved benefactor and collector of fine art, with a 12 X 18 framed photograph of the old Chicago Water Tower and the Hancock Building. Jim shot the unique image of the two buildings by lying on his back in the park at Michigan and Chicago Avenues. You can see a copy of the photo on our website, www.austin1955.org. Lou's company, Publications International, Ltd. produced all the paper and balloon products for both our 50th and 55th reunions, as well as the photo name tags, name tag holders, signs, banners, and memory books. Many thanks, Lou, for your kindness and generosity. We are very grateful.

The Saturday night dinner/dance was attended by 134 classmates and guests, including three very honored guests: **Mr. Kenneth Iversen** (Senior Choir Director) and **Mr. and Mrs. Gus Skizas** (Math teacher). Coach Leddy was out of town, and could not attend. After Welcome remarks by *Ken Rosko, Phil Grossman*, President, Class of January 1955, and *Jim Dayton*, President, Class of June 1955, spoke about their memories of Austin. Entertainment included close-up magic by *Steve Draun*, (how does he DO that?) at both the cocktail reception and after dinner. *Bob Schulman* and *Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma* were the magician's assistants. This part of the program brought many laughs, as did the antics of our resident clowns and MC's, Phil and Shel. 1950's music during and after dinner was provided by *Andy Bogacz*, who also donated CD's to be awarded as prizes. Thanks, Andy!!

A delicious dinner (there were *five* entrees from which to choose) included wine donated by *Irwin Magad*. Dinner was followed by mini-desserts and coffee. *Geri (Harris) Horak* provided wrapped and beribboned chocolate-covered spoons to stir our coffee. What a SWEET idea! Many thanks to Geri and Irwin.

The Committee also wishes to extend our special thanks to **Cherie Yost, Peggy Meyer** and **Donna (Mayfield) Harder** for pitching in and helping with Registration both evenings when we were a bit short-handed. Thanks a Bunch, Ladies!

We would be remiss in not recognizing our roving photographer, **Mike Pasquerelli**, who shot LOADS of photos both Friday and Saturday. They can be seen on our website <http://www.austin1955.org/55thReunionPhotost.html>. Or, if you beg, he might make a DVD for you. Thank you, Mike, for all your hard work!

Cameron Elementary School attendees won prizes for the most alumni attending. All ten Cameron people received 1950's CD's. Collector plates, donated by **Phil Grossman**, were awarded to **Jan (Gromoshak) Lucansky** for having the most grandchildren (how many??), and to **Ken Iversen**, for being married the longest (61 years!). We think **Millie (Handy) O'Brien** and **Wanda (Myers) Smith** also won plates, but we can't recall why.

Millie and Wanda – What are your claims to fame?

50's music CD's were also awarded to the person at each table who had the birthday closest to September 25.

Among those winners were: **Donna (Mayfield) Harder**, **Marshall Levin**, **Rochelle (Levy) Wasserman**, **Joan (McConville) Leander**, **Peggy Meyer**, **Dolores Sarocco**, **Paul Sengpiehl**, and **Loretta (Smith) Wittusen**.

The program concluded with former Senior Choir Director, **Ken Iversen**, singing, playing the piano and leading us in a rousing chorus of "Go You, Austin." Who knew a choir director and pianist could sing so well? Thank You, Mr. Iversen. You are the BEST!

On Sunday morning, those of us who survived two nights of fun and frivolity gathered in the Harvest Grill for breakfast and reminiscing about the weekend. All agreed it was a wonderful weekend of recalling good memories and renewing friendships. Some attendee comments follow.

From **Irwin Magad**: "I am still recovering from this week-end. For me it was very emotional to see some old friends that I have not seen in 55 years. I wish I would have thought to say this Saturday night but I had, you know, a senior moment. "Friends are like a balloon on a string. If you let the string go, the balloon is gone forever. This week-end we had a chance to grasp the string and hold it forever."

From **Pat Pecoraro**: "I had a great time and it was wonderful to see and talk with so many former classmates."

From **Shel Marcus**: "After the school song, music of the '50's continued while everyone schmoozed and a few couples even danced! The evening ended a little after midnight, when everyone was invited to **Ken Rosko's** suite, where we schmoozed some more. For me the evening ended a little after 2 A.M. I was tired, but it was a *good* tired feeling. What a wonderful evening!"

BACK STORY:

Not everything went smoothly. Our balloon crew (**Geri and Ed Horak**, **Harry Kappos**, **Irwin Magad**, **Shel Marcus**, **Chuck** and **Peggy Meyer**, **Nancy** and **Mike Pasquerelli**, **Ken Rosko**, and **Cherie Yost**) discovered that the weights for the balloon arrangements had disappeared from the Hospitality Room. Harry and Chuck made a run to Home Depot and bought new ones. They saved the day! Thanks, too, to **Ed Horak** who provided the helium.

LOST AND FOUND:

If you left something behind at the reunion, or if you found something, please notify any member of the reunion committee. Contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

MIX 'N MATCH:

Many beautiful collector plates, donated by **Phil Grossman**, were awarded as prizes at the reunion. However, in many cases, the name of the plate that was written on the box did not agree with the contents. If you are interested in swapping a plate or box for its mate, please call or email your newsletter editor, **Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma**. Kaye has a box that says "Wicked Witch of the West," a perfectly appropriate plate for her, but the plate inside is the Scarecrow, not at all appropriate for her size and shape. She would love to have the Wicked Witch plate. Please call 708-562-6642, if you'd like to swap.

IN MEMORIAM:

We just recently learned via returned mail of the passing, in January, 1999, of classmate **Jane (Ternand) Dervis**. Rest in Peace, Jane.

We are also sad to report the recent passing of classmate **Roberta (Gilbert) Topel**. We extend our condolences to her children, grandchildren, and her sister, **Marsha (Gilbert) Pearlstein**, also an Austin alumna.

And, our deepest sympathy to **Sheldon Marcus**, whose mother, Sally, passed away recently at age 97. Shel is grateful for the many expressions of sympathy he received from classmates.

LOWELL STREIKER'S WEBSITE: For a trip down the Memory Lane of the '50's, visit Lowell's website: http://www.revlowell.com/html/go_you_austin_.html. It's really NEAT!

MIS-STATE-MENT:

Our apologies to **Marcia (Hasselmann) Murphy** for moving her to Hanover, Pennsylvania in our July newsletter. Marcia actually lives in Hanover Park, Illinois. Your editor regrets the error.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

Many thanks to these newsletter donors of \$5 or more: **Jacqueline (Catalano) Ballard, Sandra Gnippe, Marcia (Hasselmann) Murphy, Donald Heitzman, Jim Huseman, Louis Mango, James McCarthy, Patricia Pecoraro, Carol (Pedersen) Groble, Patti Piggott, and Charlene (Restloft) Luce.** Please send newsletter donations to our Treasurer, **Irwin Magad**; 2100 Sanders Road, Suite 200; Northbrook, IL 60062-6141. **Please remember to make checks payable to "Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd."** We appreciate your support.

A special "Thank You" to these alumni who were unable to attend the reunion, but sent a donation in support of it: **John Baron, Walter Beckstrom, Frances (Calamia) Hammerstone, Frank Donohoe, Clifford Dorn, Eileen (Fogel) Glatt, Edward Handzel, Patricia (Heiland) Wise, Dorothea (Papadogianis) Hailer, William Polzin, and Robert Udoni.** We wish you had been able to join us. Maybe next time (and there WILL be a next time). ☺

50TH ANNIVERSARIES:

Paul and Marcia (Hasselmann) Murphy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in May by first renewing their wedding vows at St. Ansgar Catholic Church, and then with a party for 100 people, including their two daughters and four grandchildren, at Villa Olivia Country Club in Bartlett, Illinois. Congratulations!!

Dick and Suzanne (Johnson) Peterson celebrated their 50th anniversary with family and friends on the weekend of July 17 with a Cubs game on Saturday and a lovely brunch on Sunday. The Cubs lost, but the Sunday brunch was delightful. Some of the weekend photos can be seen on our website www.austin1955.org.

In celebration of **Joe and Anna Montana's** (Montano) 50th wedding anniversary they are trying to locate two of Joe's female classmates who frequently patronized Montana's Restaurant, located at 5909 West North Avenue in Chicago. They were guests at the wedding reception held on July 14, 1961 at the Carlton Hotel in Oak Park. Joe and Anna would like to invite them to their 50th wedding anniversary celebration in July, 2011, but cannot recall their names. If you have any information about these mystery ladies, please call Anna at 847-678-3037, or e-mail montana9856@aol.com as soon as possible. Thanks in advance for your help.

MUSIC MEMORIES: THE ONE HIT WONDERS OF THE FIFTIES (by Chuck Meyer):

Last quarter's mystery guest was Julie London singing "Cry Me a River" in 1955. She was an unequalled torch singer, with a smoky, sultry voice. Her first husband was Jack Webb, and they had a common interest in jazz (remember "Pete Kelly's Blues"?). He had over 6000 albums in his jazz collection. But he never realized Julie's musical capability. After their divorce in 1955, she returned to her first love – singing. In 1959, she married jazz composer and musician Bobby Troup. In 1972, Jack Webb produced the TV series "Emergency!" and he chose Julie and Bobby Troup for key roles in the series. Isn't that weird – working for husband number one, with husband number two?? The series ran thru 1979.

Julie and Nat King Cole each believed that their sultry voice was enhanced by their heavy smoking, so they smoked heavily until the bitter end. They both died of smoking-related problems (cancer and stroke). Julie and Nat also appeared in the 1959 movie "Night of the Quarter Moon", and Nat sings the theme song. Click on any of the following titles to hear the song on YouTube. There's her 1955 hit "[Cry Me a River](#)", and then a complete love story that she tells in three songs: "[Two Sleepy People](#)", "[Round Midnight](#)", and "[Cottage For Sale](#)". Her "thimbleful" of a voice is memorable, and the instrumental accompaniments are wonderful.

This will be the last mystery one-hit wonder, because I can't seem to find any more of them. Thanks for all the responses and suggestions that you've made over our three-year journey. (Thank YOU, Chuck, for great music memories!)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PHOTOS STILL WANTED:

Do any of you have your 1951 class photo? If you do, please send it to our webmaster, **Jim Padar** via email to webmaster@austin1955.org or via snail mail to 5426 West Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646, or fax 773-774-2448.

ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS:

Penny (Frank) Mosher, a graduate of Orr school, noticed that several classmates live in Florida. She has a house in Cape Coral. If anyone is interested in getting together next winter in Florida, please contact her at 815-404-8444 or at mospav@toast.net, or write to her at 920 Darlington, Crystal Lake, IL 60014.

TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOU:

Photos and items of general class interest should be directed to webmaster@austin1955.org. If you have any news (special trips, births, deaths, anniversaries, moves, etc.) or memories of your days at Austin to share, email **Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma** or write to her at 10846 Martindale Drive, Westchester, IL 60154-5021.

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CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE: Please email changes to reunion@austin1955.org

NAME (1st, maiden, last): _____

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CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

OTHER CHANGE: _____

PHONE NUMBER (required): _____

OR, mail this form to: **Chuck Meyer, Austin Class of 1955; 5257 107th Av N; Minneapolis, MN 55443-5902**

COMMENTS: _____

